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to others; but he may be allowed to say, that for many years he has been in the practice of immersing his seed wheat in a strong pickle of salt and water, throwing away all the grains that floated, and drying the seed with lime. Whilst he uniformly adhered to this practice he has never had occasion to complain of blast in his crops; and in some cases where it was neglected, the distemper has been observed. This year he had seven fields sown with wheat, in different farms, and various soils; in one of those fields a great deal of blast was observed, whilst the other six were quite free from it; and on remarking the defect to some of his servants, they informed him, that the seed sown in that field had not received the usual previous preparation.

If any persons are disposed to try this method, it may be necessary to inform them, that the wheat is put into the pickle through a riddle, that by its falling in a regular manner, the light grains may float, and not be pressed to the bottom by the heavy ones, which is the case when it is put into the vessel in bulk, and even stirring it will not bring up all the defective grains.

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### COMMERCIAL REPORT.

TRADE continues in an unsettled state, owing to the fluctuations occasioned by the war. The flattering hopes of to-day are often disappointed by the political events of to-morrow. The merchant, at one time, lays out his account on the speculation of the ports of the North of Europe being open, and, before the maturity of his plans, he finds a probability of their being shut. Thus the best concerted plans are often frustrated, and perceiving so great uncertainty to prevail, the once careful merchant submits to the exigencies of the times, and finding, to his cost, prudence often unavailing, loses his caution, and acts too much at random. Such a state of affairs produces an injurious influence, more than is generally supposed, on public manners, and tends considerably to the deterioration of the national character. A fondness for war is the consequence, to which, from the long habits of 20 years, many become reconciled, a supposing the evils of inevitable necessity, and submit to them, as in the necessary order of things, without making a single effort to remonstrate. In the mean time, the effects of the war are little noticed, but they regularly proceed unmarked in the descending series.

Bullion continues to rise in value. Gold was lately in London at £5 15s. per ounce, and silver at 7s. 6d.; leaving, at a rate of comparison with the mint price, the bank note for £1. worth only 15s. 4d. If we would deign to receive instructions from other countries, Austria affords a warning. Paper-money at Vienna is at present depreciated to one-half of its nominal value. We are rapidly following in the same career, and scarcely a month passes, but in our report we have to announce a rapid approximation to the same state. The act which prevents guineas from being an open marketable commodity, may hide the danger from the unsuspecting and the unreflecting, but nevertheless it is not less real.

The trade for coarse linens is good at present for the draper. The brown cost is low, and there is a brisk demand for them white, to make shirts for soldiers. Thus war is our staple trade, and only the articles influenced by it flourish. The trade for fine linens is not improved. The exigencies of the times keep back purchasers, as long as they can withhold. They try to make their old stock last a little longer, or they substitute fabrics of cotton, as costing less in the first instance.

Sugar continues to advance, as the usual supplies have not arrived from the West Indies. Sugar plantations have been for a long time unprofitable to the planter, from the low price of sugar, since the want of a regular market on the Continent of Europe. This year may perhaps make some amends.

Distillation from grain is to be permitted in Ireland from the 14th of next month. Government are in haste to avail themselves of their share of the profit arising from the manufacture of this liquid poison.

Exchange on London, both in Belfast and Dublin, has mostly kept at from  $3\frac{3}{4}$  to 4 per cent. during this month.